

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed November 15, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Submitted herewith are an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) along with the required fee and copy of any articles and foreign patent/applications cited therein, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. Accordingly, please consider all art cited in the information disclosure statement.

By means of the present amendment, the specification has been amended to correct certain informalities.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-2 and 4-7 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--, and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Claims 1-2 and 4-7

were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract for including legal phraseology. In response, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification for lacking headings. Applicant respectfully declines to add the headings as they are not required in accordance with MPEP §608.01(a), and could be inappropriately used in interpreting the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

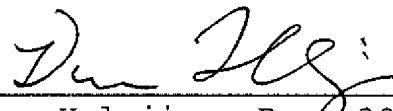
In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 3-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 3-5 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 3 which has been canceled without prejudice. Further, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1 and 4 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 5-9 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 4 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: IDS

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